

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A control panel of a washing machine, comprising:

a frame provided on a cabinet to form an exterior;

a display panel on a front side of the frame to have at least one button formed thereon;

a display substrate in rear of the display panel to have at least one switch formed thereon;

and

a lever structure between the corresponding button and switch to operate the switch by receiving an external force applied to the button, the lever structure including:

a first lever receiving the external force to rotate about a first non-movable pivot point; and

a second lever coupled with the first lever, the second lever rotating about a second non-movable pivot point to turn on/off the switch when the first lever rotates,

wherein the first non-movable pivot point is located at an intermediate portion of the first lever.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1~~

A control panel of a washing machine, comprising:

a frame provided on a cabinet to form an exterior;

a display panel on a front side of the frame to have at least one button formed thereon;

a display substrate in rear of the display panel to have at least one switch formed thereon;
and
a lever structure between the corresponding button and switch to operate the switch by
receiving an external force applied to the button, the lever structure including:
a first lever receiving the external force to rotate about a first non-movable pivot
point; and
a second lever coupled with the first lever, the second lever rotating about a
second non-movable pivot point to turn on/off the switch when the first lever rotates,

wherein a rotational protrusion is formed at either the first lever or the second lever and a coupling recess is formed at either the second lever or the first lever so that the rotational protrusion is fitted to the coupling recess.

4. (Previously Presented) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second levers are rotatably coupled with a backside of the display panel.

5. (Original) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein lever fixing parts are formed at the backside of the display panel and the first and second levers are coupled with the corresponding lever fixing parts, respectively.

6. (Previously Presented) A control panel of a washing machine, comprising:

a frame provided on a cabinet to form an exterior;

a display panel on a front side of the frame to have at least one button formed thereon;

a display substrate in rear of the display panel to have at least one switch formed thereon;
and

a lever between the corresponding button and switch to operate the switch by receiving an external force applied to the button, wherein the lever comprises:

a first lever receiving the external force applied to the button to operate; and

a second lever coupled with the first lever to turn on/off the switch according to an operation of the first lever,

wherein the first and second levers are rotatably coupled with a backside of the display panel,

wherein lever fixing parts are formed at the backside of the display panel and the first and second levers are coupled with the corresponding lever fixing parts, respectively,

wherein perforated holes are formed at the lever fixing parts and the first and second levers, respectively and wherein lever rotational shafts are inserted in the corresponding perforated holes, respectively.

7. (Previously Presented) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the elastic member has a first end and a second end, the first end of the elastic member being in contact with the display panel, the second end of the elastic member extending from the second lever, the second non-movable pivot point being located between the second end of the elastic member and the switch.

8. (Original) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the elastic member is a plate spring.

9. (Original) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the elastic member is zigzag-shaped.

10. (Previously Presented) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein a button protrusion is formed at a bottom of the button to be brought into contact with the first lever once the external force is applied to the button.

11. (Previously Presented) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein a protrusion is formed at a top of the first lever to be brought into contact with the first lever once the external force is applied to the button.

12. (Previously Presented) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein a bent part is formed at a central portion of the second lever.

13. (Original) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein a rib is provided at the bent part for rigidity reinforcement.

14. (Previously Presented) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an elastic member located between the display panel and the lever

structure, the elastic member being in contact with the display panel to provide a restoring force for the lever structure to return to an original state of the lever.

15. (Previously Presented) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the external force stops, the lever structure is spaced apart from the switch.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second non-movable pivot point is located at an intermediate portion of the second lever.

18. (Previously Presented) The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the button is spaced apart from the lever structure when the external force applied to the button stops.